

Research Proposal & Research Design

EE459 Seminar in International Economics

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Research Design

- Kothari (2004) provide the following questions as guidelines for a researcher in choosing a research design:
- What is the study about?
- Why is the study being made?
- Where will the study be carried out?
- What type of data is required?
- Where can the required data be found?
- What periods of time will the study include?
- What will be the sample design?
- What techniques of data collection will be used?
- How will the data be analyzed?
- In What style will the report be prepared?

Research Proposal

- To present the question to be researched and its importance
- To discuss the research efforts of others who have worked on related questions
- To suggest the data necessary for solving the question.
- To indicate whether the research will be feasible.

What are benefits of the proposal to a researcher?

- Allow the research to plan and review the project steps-by-steps
- Serve as a guide throughout the investigation
- Force time and budget estimates

General Content of a Research Proposal

- Statement of the research question (rationales of undertaking the project)
- Brief description of research methodology
- Pilot testing (if any)
- Data collection
- Data analysis and interpretation
- Project management: Schedule/ Budget/ Facilities required
- Expected output
- Form of reporting results

What to include in Appendix?

- A glossary of concepts, abbreviations, and definitions
- Samples of the measurement instruments
- Other materials that reinforce the body of the research

Good Research Proposal

- Neatly written in appropriate writing style
- Major topics should be easily found and logically organised.
- Proposal must meet specific guidelines set by the sponsor (if any)

Supporting Skills

- To search information.... Library acquaintance/ website search engine/ intelligent sources.
- To prepare report and presentation... Word/ Excel/ PPT/ photoshop/ ...
- To manage database of references ... Endnote

Research Design

- A plan for selecting the sources and types of information used to answer research questions
- A framework for specifying the relationship among the study variables
- A blueprint that outlines each procedure from the hypothesis to the analysis

Nature of Study

- Exploratory research
 - To develop hypotheses or questions for further research, to better comprehend and nature of the problem before a model and a rigorous design is developed
- Descriptive research
 - To explain relationship among variables. It usually presents data in a meaningful form that can help readers think systematically about aspects in a given situation, offer ideas for further research and help make certain simple decisions
- Hypothesis testing study
 - To test the hypotheses or answer the research questions posed.
- Case studies
 - To place more emphasis on a full contextual analysis of fewer events or conditions and their interrelations

About Data

Data Collection Techniques

- Qualitative techniques
- Secondary data
- Focus groups
- Multi-stage design

Unit of Analysis

- Individuals
- Groups
- Organisations
- Countries

Research Environment

- Field conditions
- Laboratory conditions
- Simulations

What is the good data?

- Appropriate to the research problem and purpose
- Accurate
- Consistent with other information
- Uniformly entered
- Complete
- Arranged to simplify coding and tabulation, which is appropriate for questionnaire design
- Mutually exclusive
- Derived from one classification principle.

Presentation of Data

- Descriptive Analysis
 - Distribution descriptors
 - Central tendency: mean, median, mode
 - Spread: variance, SD, range
 - Shape: skewness, kurtosis
- How to display
 - Frequency table: number, growth, proportion
 - Graphic display: histogram, line, pie, 3-D, etc
 - Cross-tabulation of variables
 - GIS: to capture, store, manipulate, integrate and display spatially-referenced data